

Ephesians 2

Background

In Ephesians 1, Paul began his letter by talking about the gratefulness he has for God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ for their redemptive plan that they have for humanity. He talked about how we were selected before the foundation of the world to be adopted as sons and daughters, to have forgiveness of sins through God's grace, and how God will redeem His prized possession for which he made a significant down payment for.

Paul then talks about how thankful he is to the church and that he often prays for them. His prayer is that they would receive the spirit of wisdom and revelation from the very God that has placed Jesus at the right hand and also places His enemies at His feet. As we begin chapter 2, you'll notice that it begins with the conjunction "and" as the first word in verse 1. Why is that there? Consider that as your diving-off point and you study this week.

Day 1 - Read and Memorize

1. Read the chapter at least twice. If possible, use different translations. Optionally, have the passage read to you. Many apps, including the Blue Letter Bible, have a feature that will read the Bible to you. Meditate and pray on the passage.

2. Consider and start memorizing the verse below:

Ephesians 2:10:

"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."

Day 2 - Observations

3. In verses 1-3, **who** made the believer alive? **What** was their previous condition?

4. In verses 4-7, **who** was the catalyst of change for the dire condition the world was in?

5. In verses 8-9, **how** does Paul state the readers of the letter are saved? **How** is salvation described?

6. Read verses 14-16 a few times and meditate on it. **What** are some of the things accomplished by Christ on the cross?

7. In verses 19-22, **how** are the readers of the letter described? **How** is Jesus described? **What** imagery is used to describe the body of Christ?

8. **(Optional)** Write down any **additional** observations from your study time this week not covered in the observation questions above. This is the 'who, what, when, where, why, and how' of the passage.

Day 3 - Additional Observations

9. Take note of any repeated words, thoughts, or phrases in our passage this week. Write those down below.

10. Did any parts of the passage you read make you think about other stories in the Bible? This includes similar narratives, but could also include similarity in lessons being learned by different people at different times. We call these links "purposeful parallels." If so, write those down below.

11. **Word Studies:** Use the "Blue Letter Bible" or your favorite word study method to look up the word listed below: Ephesians 2:10 (NKJV), "***For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.***" - This week's word from the passage above: "***workmanship***"

Write out the Greek word phonetically so you can learn how to pronounce it. What are some definitions of the word provided by the Greek dictionary? How does understanding the Greek word help you in understanding this passage more fully?

12. **Optional Word Studies:** Look up words you are curious about in the passage in a Greek dictionary. Write the word out phonetically and how understanding the Greek word helps you understand the passage more fully.

Day 4 - Interpret

Now that we have determined what the text says, move into interpretation. The meaning of the text is not subjective. The goal of interpretation is to discover God's intended meaning for the text we just read and provided observations for.

13. In verses 11-13, what important truth is Paul reminding the largely Gentile church of?

14. **Optional:** Write down additional interpretations from your study time down below.

Day 5 - Life Application

Reading the Bible should change you! The purpose of reading any passage or passages is to gain life changing applications you must consider for your own life.

15. Write out a personal application that challenges you as a grafted-in member of the body of Christ.

16. **Optional:** Write down any additional life applications from your study time this week down below.

Day 6 - Closing Thoughts and Memory Verse

As you've had time to meditate on this week's passage, write down any closing thoughts and/or list ways this passage has challenged you. How are you going to take the application from Day 5 and make it a tangible application for you? What are some additional things that you'd like to share with your group? These are just a few ideas to jot down as you close out this week.

Notes from Teaching

Teacher: _____ **Date:** _____

4